

## PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**DATE:** November 2023

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### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS:

**Tarrytown Neighborhood Park Playground Renovation:** A ribbon cutting for the Tarrytown Playground Renovation occurred on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Improvements include expanding the curb to increase play opportunities, new traditional playground equipment at both the 2-5-year-old and the 5-12-year-old play areas with integrated shade, new ADA-compliant sidewalks, a new drinking fountain with a dog bowl feature, stand-alone xylophone and cabasa music elements, and new seating amenities. **District 10**  
<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/tarrytown-neighborhood-park-playscape-replacement>

**Bolm District Park Vision Plan:** The Parks and Recreation Department (Department) has contracted with Halff Associates to develop a vision plan for Bolm District Park, a 68-acre undeveloped park along the Colorado River at 6700 Bolm Road. The first round of *community engagement* was conducted with small group meetings in October to understand community values and develop objectives for the vision plan. The first virtual community meeting was held on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Three to six pop-up meetings will take place over the remainder of 2023. These first-round meetings will introduce Bolm District Park to the community, and a survey will be conducted to understand desired programming and recreational amenities. The plan will continue with two more rounds of community engagement in 2024. The vision plan and report are anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2024. **District 3**  
<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/bolm-district-park-vision-plan>



*Photo of current conditions at Bolm District Park*

**Walter E. Long Community Update Meeting:** A virtual *community engagement* meeting was held on November 15<sup>th</sup> to review progress on the schematic design phase of the Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park. Austin City Council adopted the [Walter E. Long Vision Plan](#) on October 15, 2020. The first phase of implementation will primarily address utility work, restroom upgrades, road work, and a new nature trail. If the budget allows, plans will also include a playground and new picnic areas. The engagement meeting informed the community of the status of the Phase 1 Implementation and requested input on prioritizing the proposed amenities. **District 1**  
<https://www.austintexas.gov/walter-e-long-park-improvements>



*The final vision plan as approved by Council in 2020. Schematic Design is underway for the first of several potential phases of implementation.*

## PLANNING UPDATES:

**Parkland Acquisition:** The Department plans to seek Council approval for the purchase and sale agreement of property at 2710 Sweeney Lane on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The half-acre lot in the eastern part of the Windsor Park neighborhood will provide additional greenspace in a parkland deficient area, features mature shade trees, and provides opportunities to develop recreational features and amenities.

**District 4**

**Mueller Parkland Maintenance Agreement:** The Department plans to seek Council approval on a Parkland Maintenance Agreement between the City and the Mueller Property Owner's Association for the maintenance of three parkland lots in the Mueller Development at a to be determined Council Meeting in January. The Parks and Recreation Board voted unanimously to recommend the approval of the agreement on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. **District 9**

**Project Connect Update:** The Department continues to coordinate with the Austin Transit Partnership and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on the environmental process for Phase 1 of the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan. Department staff are reviewing the draft Environmental Impact Statement Technical Reports. The Youth Hostel Boathouse Feasibility Study contract remains under review. More information will be released in Spring 2024.

**Multiple Districts** <https://www.projectconnect.com/>

**Texas Legislature Parkland Dedication HB 1526:** Department staff is working on a new ordinance, fee changes, and a new geographic areas map with associated public hearings before the City must come into compliance for new applications beginning January 1, 2024. A public hearing to establish the geographic areas required for the fees and density factors was held by City Council on November 9<sup>th</sup> and was approved as amended. A public hearing for the new ordinance will be held on November 30<sup>th</sup> with the final hearing to approve changes to the fee structure anticipated on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The ordinance was approved on consent by the Planning Commission on November 14<sup>th</sup>. **All Districts**

## DEVELOPMENT UPDATES:

**Grey Rock Golf Course:** The Grey Rock Golf Course re-opened on October 23<sup>rd</sup> after a five-month maintenance project. The putting greens were resurfaced with a Bermuda TifEagle™ grass and the teeing grounds were resurfaced with a Bermuda Tiffway Latitude 36™ grass. Improvements were made to the parking lot by re-sealing and restriping. Significant upgrades were made around the golf shop area by installing synthetic turf and adding yard games for the visitors to enjoy after their round of golf. Grey Rock was originally built in 1993 by a private firm, the Austin Parks and Recreation Department acquired the property in 2014. This was a project that was much needed and well received by the golfing community. **District 8**

**Onion Creek Reclaimed Water Line:** Jimmy Clay/Roy Kizer Golf Complex was one of the original reclaimed water lines used for irrigating golf course turf and athletic fields in Austin. A project has been completed at Clay/Kizer which extended the reclaim water line and allowed the line to service other areas. The reclaim line was installed from Roy Kizer to Dove Springs and to the Onion Creek Soccer Complex. **District 2**

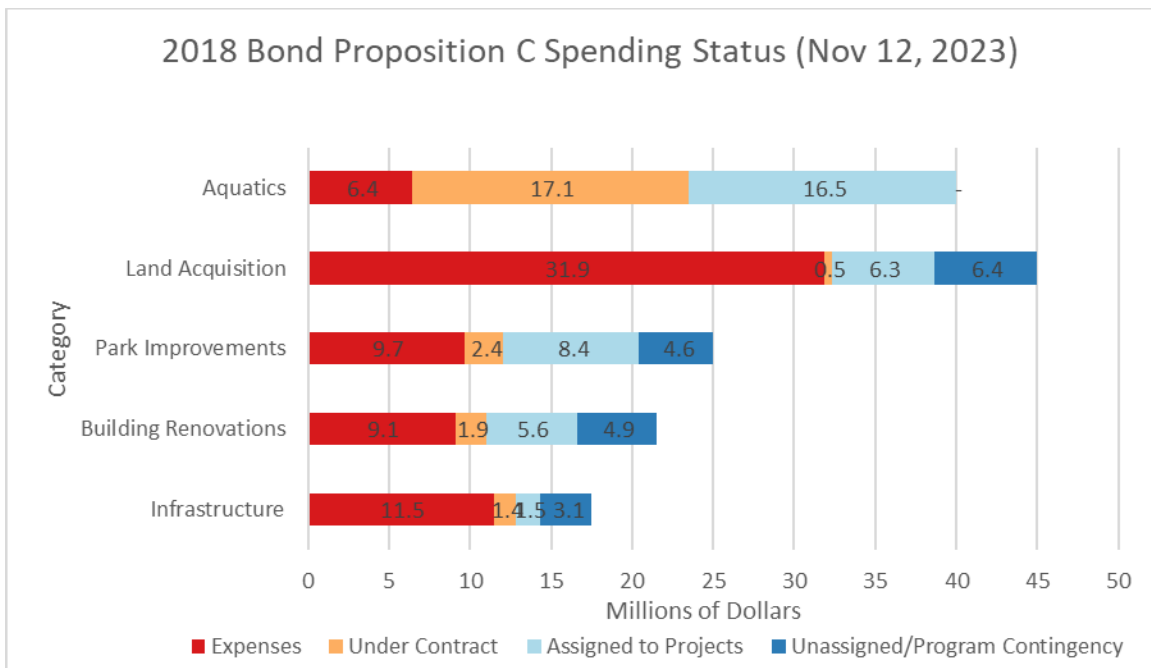


## **2018 General Obligation Bond Program Proposition C – Parks and Recreation (\$149 million) Update:**

Funding from Proposition C has contributed to over 100 projects and 40 parkland acquisition efforts throughout the City of Austin. The Department has spent \$68.6 million of the \$149 million authorized and has a further \$23.2 million under contract. Recent highlights in the program include:

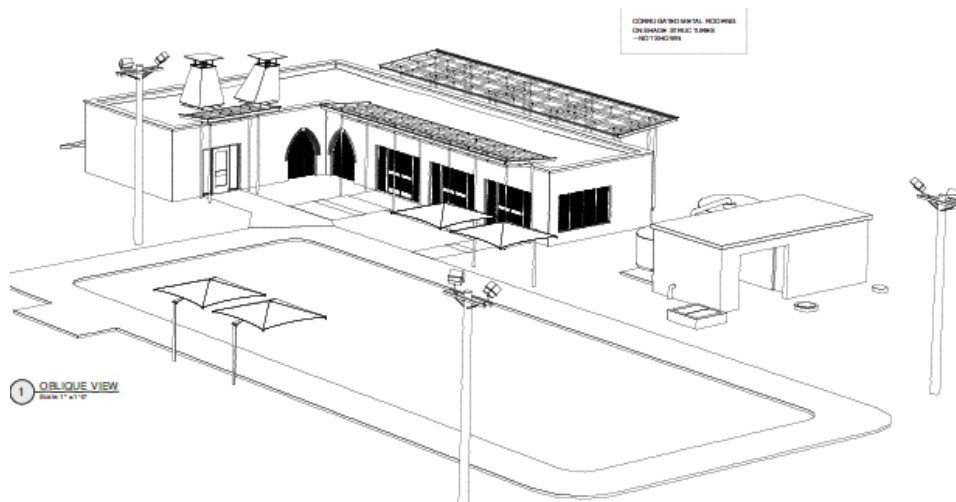
- **Completed Projects**
  - Pharr Tennis Center reopened in October following a [complete renovation](#) that refurbished the court, updated the pro shop, added energy-efficient sports lighting, and provided accessible parking, security site lighting, and proper drainage. The project is expected to achieve LEED Silver and SITES certification. **District 9**
  - The new multipurpose field, restroom, and picnic shelters at Givens District Park opened in October, completing the first phase of the [Vision Plan's implementation](#). **District 1**
  - Brush Square reopened to the public in September following the first phase of its [Vision Plan implementation](#). Improvements to the park include a raised deck, event lawn, walkways, furnishings, lighting, and landscaping. **District 9**
  - The Department completed playground replacement and improvement projects at [Northwest Recreation Center](#) and McBeth Recreation Center in late summer. [Tarrytown Neighborhood Park's](#) playground replacement project is scheduled to be completed within the month. **Districts 5, 7, 8 and 10**
  - The Department completed a series of accessibility improvement and rehabilitation projects to the restrooms at Dottie Jordan Recreation Center and Austin Memorial Park and parking lots and entries to South Austin Senior Activity Center. **Districts 1, 7, 5 and 3**
- **Construction Starts and Bid Updates**
  - The 1.7 mile [Violet Crown Trail connection](#) between Circle C Metro Park and the Veloway started construction in October. **District 8**
  - Development of [Oertli Neighborhood Park](#) began in November. The park will include a loop trail, playground, fitness area, picnic pavilions, and an off-leash dog area. **District 1**
  - The [replacement and improvements](#) to Alamo Pocket Park's playground started construction in September. **District 1**
  - Renovations and accessibility improvements to [Bull Creek District Park Restroom](#) started construction in September. **District 10**
  - City Council authorized the negotiation of a construction contract for the [Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation](#) project in November. **District 8**
  - City Council will consider an item authorizing negotiation of a construction contract for the [Parque Zaragoza Bathhouse Renovation](#) project in December. **District 3**
- **Active Construction**
  - Construction of [Colony Park](#) and [Givens](#) Pools started in May. Monthly project updates are available on their respective websites. **District 1**
  - Construction of [Brownie](#) and [Highland](#) Neighborhood Parks started in December 2022 and are expected to be completed in early 2024. **District 4**
  - Construction of [Duncan Neighborhood Park](#) started in May and is expected to be completed in Spring 2024. **District 9**

- In Design
  - The [Montopolis](#) Pool Renovation and [Beverly Sheffield Northwest](#) projects are both in the site development permitting process. **Districts 3 and 7**
  - The first community updates on design development of the [Walter E. Long](#) and [John Treviño Jr.](#) Metro Park Vision Plan phase one implementation projects are scheduled for mid-November. **District 1**
- Vision Planning
  - Stakeholder engagement for the [Bolm District Park Vision Plan](#) started in October. **District 3**



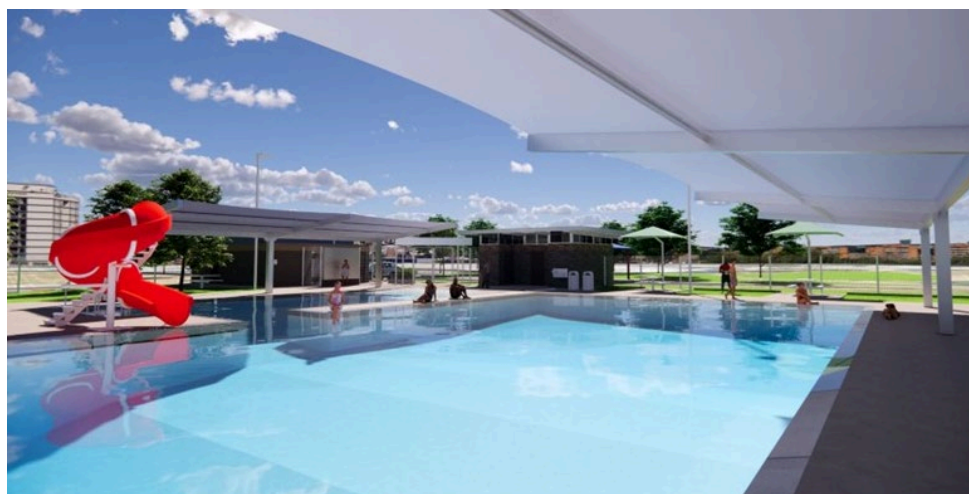
**Parque Zaragoza Bathhouse Renovation:** The Department will seek Council authorization to execute a construction contract with the lowest bidder for the rehabilitation of the historic Parque Zaragoza Bathhouse on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The Parque Zaragoza bathhouse was erected in 1941 by the National Youth Administration, a New Deal agency, and served as the bathhouse for the pool until its closure in 2010. In late 2022, the bathhouse received a designation in the National Register of Historic Places. The design team for the renovation is led by Limbacher Godfrey Architects acquired through the City of Austin Architecture Rotation List. The architectural program includes the rehabilitation of the existing gender specific men and women’s restrooms with showers to meet current ADA standards and Health Department code. The large activity space will function as a pavilion accessed by large doorways from the park side through to the pool area. A lifeguard office, janitorial, and storage spaces will be provided. The lifeguard office will be air conditioned, and the remainder of the building will be naturally ventilated. The unique architectural arch elements on the buildings’ pool-facing side will remain intact and will be enhanced with an Art in Public Places installation. In addition, the project proposes to add a shade feature at the entry and at pool side to enhance the building entry and pool side access. The

rehabilitation will follow the Secretary of the Interior guidelines on the rehabilitation of historic structures. **District 3** <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/parque-zaragoza-bathhouse>



*Construction plan for the Parque Zaragoza Bathhouse*

**Montopolis Pool Renovation & Northwest Pool Renovation:** On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, both projects were approved by the Design Commission, verifying compliance with the City's Design and Sustainability Standards. On November 28<sup>th</sup>, the Montopolis Pool Renovation project will request approval for a conditional use permit from the Planning Commission, required for projects with a limit of construction greater than one acre. On December 14<sup>th</sup>, the Department will request Council approval on an ordinance accepting \$3,125,000 in grant funds authorized through the National Park Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program and amending the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Capital Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department to appropriate those funds for the Montopolis Pool Replacement Project. **Districts 3 and 7**  
<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/montopolis-pool-project>  
<https://www.austintexas.gov/sheffieldNWpool>



*Rendering of the proposed Montopolis Pool renovation, facing east*

**Waterloo Greenway:** Department staff attended the monthly meeting of the [Waller Creek Local Government Corporation](#) (LGC) on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the LGC is to oversee the implementation of the financing, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of public improvements located within or around the Waterloo Greenway. The agenda for the November meeting included briefings on three distinct projects which share similar names but are being delivered by separate entities, including the Palm District Planning Initiative from the Housing and Planning Department, Palm Park community engagement from the Waterloo Greenway Conservancy, and Palm School from Travis County. A [recording of the meeting and presentation materials](#) can be found on the LGC website. The online survey collecting public input remains open and is available in English and Spanish. <https://www.austintexas.gov/palmparkproject> **District 9**

**Henry Madison Cabin at Rosewood Park:** Austin Parks Foundation (APF), in partnership with the Department, is leading a restoration effort of the historic Henry Madison log cabin at Rosewood Park. Madison is notable for being the first African American Austin City Council member in the 1870s during the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era. The cabin was relocated to Rosewood Park in the early 1970s. The project has been submitted to the Historic Landmark Commission for historic review at the December 13<sup>th</sup> regular monthly meeting. <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/henry-g-madison-cabin-restoration> **District 1**

**Roy Kizer Golf Course Parking Lot Improvements:** Improvements to the ADA parking, accessible pathways, and main entrance to the pro shop have been completed. The project provides compliant access to Roy Kizer /Jimmy Clay Golf Courses for use by local residents, tournament participants, and visitors from around the nation. Striping, safety delineators and caution paint will be applied by the department and golf staff to ensure safe circulation for pedestrians and carts. This project was completed using the Department's Asphalt/Concrete Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract and is funded by 2018 GO Bonds. **District 2**



*Photo of pathway improvements made to the Roy Kizer Golf Course*



**Trail Safety Improvements at Waller Beach:** In partnership with The Trail Conservancy, the Department has completed two significant milestones regarding the permanent safety improvements planned for the trail along Waller Beach. First, a permanent security camera was installed at the intersection of Cummings and Rainey Street on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, the design consultants have completed 100% construction documents. Construction is expected to begin in the Spring of 2024 once contract procurement is completed. **District 9**



*New safety lights being installed around Waller Beach*



## MAINTENANCE UPDATES:

### Aquatic Maintenance:

- Autofill leaks at Canyon Vista and Montopolis repaired. The leaks were preventing the pool from maintaining appropriate water levels. **Districts 6 and 3**
- Elk Electric began working on electrical upgrades for Metz splash pad. These upgrades will help the splash pad run smoother and provide better readings regarding chemical levels. **District 3**

### Aquatic Division:

Barton Springs Pool: Blaster and Buffer equipment is being repaired by Hotsy. This equipment cleans algae spots and keeps the water looking clear. **District 5**

**Lamar Senior Activity Center – Floor Repair:** The center shut down the multipurpose room on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> for maintenance on the floor that sustained water damage during the April storms last year. No classes were cancelled during the closure but were modified to either be online or in a smaller room. The repair is complete. **District 9**



*Repaired Multipurpose Room Floor*

## PROGRAM UPDATES:

### **District 1:**

**Annual Turkey Shoot:** On Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> Delores Duffie Recreation center hosted their annual turkey shoot in Doris Miller gym from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The event was free to the public and included arts and crafts, photos along with an opportunity for each family to win a Turkey complete turkey dinner. First place winners received a free turkey dinner, complete with sides, dessert, and a turkey. Second place winners received a free dessert and turkey. Third place winners received a turkey. The event was well attended by the community.

**Roots and Wings:** Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center hosted the Roots and Wings Event in partnership with Go Green and Austin Watershed Protection on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The event was free and brought over 100 participants to interact with the Go Green Project and Austin Watershed Protection Department. The event included a lecture and free plant and tree give away. The event was well attended by the community.



*Participants Getting Plants*



*Participants Posing with Their New Plants*

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Night Bazaar – Asian American Resource Center (AARC):** On Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> the AARC campus was transformed into a Night Bazaar to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the City of Austin's Asian American Resource Center (AARC). The event featured over 40 food & merchandise vendors, community organizations, cultural activity booths, and performances. The evening was accompanied by the debut of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit featuring new work from previous AARC exhibitors. AARC staff as well as both first-time and longtime AARC-goers braved the weather to come together in appreciation of our past while looking forward towards our future. 449 participants at the event.



*Traditional Lion Dancers at the Night Bazaar*

**Oakwood Cemetery Chapel Programs:** The site launched two programs on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> “Reunir: Historia del Día de Muertos” a digital exhibit about the history of Día de Muertos. “Alma y Corazon” was a collaboration with Tejano cemetery descendants, the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, and the Cemetery Operations Division. The event included art, music, food, community, and remembrance. A custom artwork by Alonso Estrada, also known as The Death Head, was created for the occasion. 100 people in attendance.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/9b0fd74c76834aa3b09e4afd4af29094>



*Oakwood Cemetery Chapel Visitors Enjoying the Music of Javier Jara*



**District 2:**

**Onion Creek Commemoration and Mural Unveiling of 2013 and 2015 Onion Creek floods – Hosted by**

**Dougherty Arts Center:** The community gathered for the inauguration and unveiling of a memorial mural in Onion Creek Metropolitan Park to commemorate the 2013 and 2015 Onion Creek floods on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The mural was created in collaboration with Onion Creek flood survivors, who participated in a series of focus groups with artist Alonso Estrada. The mural is inspired by an ancient Native American myth of a wild white horse that inhabited Onion Creek and tells the story of the strength of the floodwaters and the fortitude of the community members who survived as they struggled to save their neighbors. The commemoration also held a prayer and indigenous blessing of the Onion Creek Park and mural. 200 people in attendance.



*Community Members Gathered at Onion Creek Metropolitan Park for a Commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Devastating Floods*



*Aerial view of the Onion Creek Floods Memorial Mural by Alonso Estrada*

**District 3:**

**Montopolis Recreation and Community Center:** Montopolis Recreation and Community Center created a community Ofrenda for Dia de los Muertos. Community member were able to add photos of loved ones that passed to the alter. The ofrenda was on display from October 18<sup>th</sup>-November 2<sup>nd</sup>. About 30 community members contributed to the alter.



*Community Ofrenda at Montopolis*

**Community Thanksgiving Meal:** Pan Am Recreation Center will hosted its Community Thanksgiving meal on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The event was catered and included a free dinner for community residents in attendance. Activities included musical performances by Ballet Folk Lorico as well as an outdoor memorial celebration honoring the painting of the Hillside mural, hosted by the mural's artist, Raul Valdez.

**Toddler Nature Play Program:** On Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, participants in the Rudy Mendez Recreation Center Toddler Nature Play program learned about different ways animals and insects use camouflage to blend in with their surroundings. Together with parents, caregivers and program instructors, participants explored the natural environment of the park on a mini hike using their binoculars to discover examples of camouflage in nature. Afterwards, they played a color matching game before finishing the day discovering the subterranean lifestyles of worms. The Toddler Nature Play program meets on Saturday mornings, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., at Rudy Mendez Recreation Center. Registration is \$10 per month for ages 3-4 years old and a snack is provided.





*Toddler Nature Play Children Participants*

**Day of the Dead – The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC):** MACC celebrated at the Oswaldo AB Cantu Pan American Recreation Center. They partnered with [MexAmerican](#) who showcased over 50 Mexican American artists. The event featured an “Artist Alley” which was MexAmerican’s vendor market with original comic books, graphic novels, zines and pop art, and crafts. The MACC provided free face painting and sugar skull decorating, and there were three art installations by [Las Piñatas ATX](#). A giant collective altar or *ofrenda* grew larger throughout the evening as guests contributed names to it. Master of Ceremonies Marion Sanchez from the City of Austin’s Communications and Public Information Office hosted the live entertainment including bands Outlet Odyssey, Austin’s Latin-psych fusion band [Los Alcos](#), Tejano artist Monica Saldivar, and local Mariachi metal group [Tequila Rock Revolution](#). Many families who attended said they appreciated the free transportation and activities. 2,000 people in attendance.



*Guests Enjoy the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center’s Day of the Dead and Mexamerican Held at Pan-American Recreation Center  
(Photo by Lupe Arte)*

#### **District 5:**

**One Million Stars Project:** South Austin Senior Activity Center (SASAC) hosted the One Million Stars three-part workshop on Wednesdays from September 27<sup>th</sup>-October 18<sup>th</sup>. The program guided participants on making craft stars out of ribbon as a symbol of non-violence, and to build community connections and create a sense of unity. SASAC participants crafted over 220 stars, that are being displayed in the lobby throughout the month of November.

#### **District 7:**

**Fall Fest:** Northwest Recreation Center hosted Fall Fest, on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4:00-6:00 p.m. This was a free event for children, ages 5-12. Over 80 children participated in the event where they enjoyed carnival games with prizes, a bounce house, popcorn, and music.

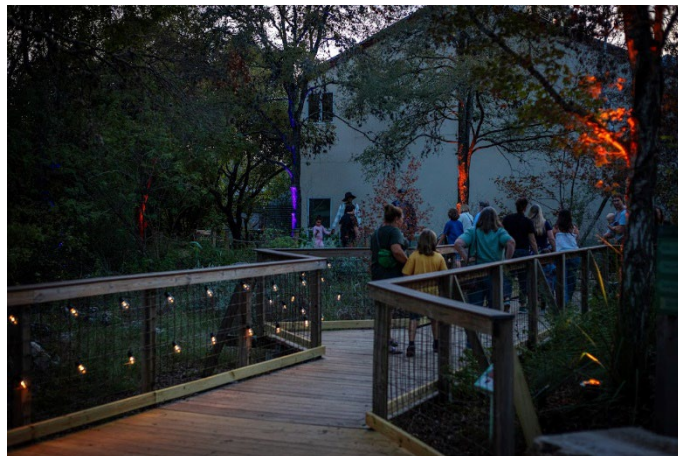
#### **District 8:**

**Zilker Tree Lighting Ceremony:** Austin Parks and Recreation, Austin Energy, and the Trail of Lights Foundation present the 57th annual Zilker Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, November 26 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 2100 Barton Springs Rd. on the south side of the park. This favorite holiday tradition helps kick off Austin's holiday season and will feature local entertainment, food and live music. Anticipating 3,000 people. More information at: [austintexas.gov/zilkerholidaytree](https://austintexas.gov/zilkerholidaytree). **District 8.**

**Zilker Holiday Tree Month:** Month long display and parking information for the Zilker Holiday Tree, Zilker Metropolitan Park, November 27, 2023-January 1, 2024. [Zilker Holiday Tree - nightly visitation information](#)

**Trail of Lights Fun Run:** Public run and kick off to the Trail of Lights event season at Zilker Metropolitan Park, on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. 8,000 participants anticipated. [Trail of Lights Fun Run](#)

**Austin Nature and Science Center Fall Fest:** Over 600 visitors experienced the Austin Nature and Science Center's Animal's After Dark fall fest on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Guests took part in guided hikes, met a screech owl, gazed at the winter constellations in the planetarium and more. This event was free and open to all ages.



*Visitors Walking Along a Decorated Boardwalk that Led to Various Activities*



*A Family Observes a Screech Owl and its Handler*

**The Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy:** The Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy held its first annual High Desert Le Le Dîner en Blanc event at the Garden on November 4<sup>th</sup>. This event celebrated the unveiling of the Zilker Botanical Garden Succulent Collection gifted by the late Bob Barth and the Conservancy's mission to cultivate community and foster life-long learning that inspires an appreciation of the botanical world.

**Zilker Botanical Garden Free Day:** The Garden offered a Free Day on November 10<sup>th</sup> as one of eight free days offered throughout the year, January through December. Reservations are encouraged.

**Zilker Botanical Garden Yule in the Garden:** The Garden hosted Yule in the Garden from December 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., offering nature crafts as part of a festive outdoor holiday experience. Visitors can enjoy nature craft stations that are free with regular garden admission, special musical performances from Austin Camerata, raffles, and holiday food truck treats that will be available for purchase.

#### **District 9:**

**Interprofessional Collaboration for Population Health:** The Health Promotions Unit in collaboration with the University of Texas College of Pharmacy is in their 5<sup>th</sup> year of creating and implementing a Parks Prescription program for PARD. This community-academic partnership is mutually beneficial in improving the health of the community. Each year, the students are required to participate in an immersion experience with the community partner. This year students and PARD staff completed a Forest Bathing experience at Eastwoods Neighborhood Park on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. One of the goals is to expand and educate healthcare partners on the benefits of prescribing time in nature.

For more information on the Parks Prescription program visit <https://www.austintexas.gov/pardrx>. Upcoming Forest Bathing experience at Pease Park: <https://peasepark.org/events/2023/11/21-green-in-gratitude-a-forest-bathing-experience>





*Forrest Bathing Activity*

**Día de los muertos Mini-Event at Austin Recreation Center:** On November 1, 2023, Austin Recreation Center (ARC) hosted a Día de los Muertos Mini-Event from 9:00-11:00 a.m. The event was free and open to all. Participants enjoyed coffee and a treat, decorating sugar skulls, and playing Loteria. The event brought in 16 participants and was led by ARC staff. ARC does not currently offer programming led by ARC staff and this event is intended to be the first of many opportunities that will offer free activities to the community while building positive relationships between staff and participants.



*Participants at Austin Recreation Center making Sugar Skulls and Playing Loteria*

**Hancock Recreation Center's Día de los Muertos Event:** The Hancock community came together to celebrate Día de los Muertos by creating an ofrenda. Throughout the week, families offered photos of past loved ones, decorated sugar skulls, and created clay pan de muerto to place on the ofrenda. On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 75 people celebrated throughout the day with face painting and traditional Día de los Muertos food.



*Staff and Kids at the Ofrenda for the Día de los Muertos Event*

**A Community Art Bash – Elisabet Ney Museum Re-Imagining the Ney:** On Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> audiences reimagined Elisabet Ney's iconoclastic life and brilliant art through the lens of three Austin contemporary visual artists: Yuliya Lanina, Agustina Rodriguez and Lisa B. Woods. Attendees experienced artist interventions, theatrical performances, and musical expressions immersed throughout the Museum's expansive grounds, paired with curated food and drinks from local vendors and specialized museum tours crafted by interpretive actors. Eric McMaster's *Digital Fabrication* course from The University of Texas shared their current day translations of Ney's plaster casts in the form of 3D printers that were installed throughout the Museum. 720 people in attendance.



*Local Artist Doing an Original Performance with Guests at the Ney*



**Women Veterans Celebration:** On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the Old Bakery & Emporium held an art opening that featured the work of eight Austin women artists who are military veterans. This special art exhibit celebrates the **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women's Armed Forces Integration Act**, which allowed women to become permanent, regular members of the US armed forces in 1948. The event was part of an annual collaboration with the Austin Veterans Art Festival, which also included music. 105 people in attendance.



*Women veterans who Exhibited their Art in the “Celebrating Women Veterans” Exhibition*

**Susanna Dickinson Museum Spirit Crossing:** This exhibit highlights artist Paula Flagg’s Día de los Muertos inspired tile mosaics and paintings. A brief history of Día de los Muertos and the symbolism and influential artists behind present day traditions are also explored in this exhibit. This exhibit will be at the Susanna Dickinson Museum from October 19<sup>th</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>. Estimated attendance is 860.





*Image of Visitor Enjoying S. Dickinson Exhibit*

### **Multiple Districts:**

**Camp Days – Thanksgiving Break:** Multiple Recreation Centers hosted Camp Days for the Thanksgiving Break on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>-Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> for youth ages 5-12. Camp Days are offered when school is out on non-City holidays. Participants enjoy active play activities as well as craft activities.

**STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Club – Dittmar Recreation Center:** Dittmar Recreation Center hosted its 1<sup>st</sup> ever STEM program with 24 participants registered. The program consisted of fun projects and experiments for ages 5-11 years old. The program came to an end on November 8<sup>th</sup> and the community looks forward to its return in the future. **Districts 2 and 5.**



*Dittmar Recreation Center STEM Club 2023*

**Halloween Events:** Halloween events were held at several recreation centers. The events included free food and fun events. The events were well attended by the community. Looking forward to next year!



*A Parent Tosses the Pumpkin in the 13 & Up Heat  
Gus Garcia Recreation Center*

## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

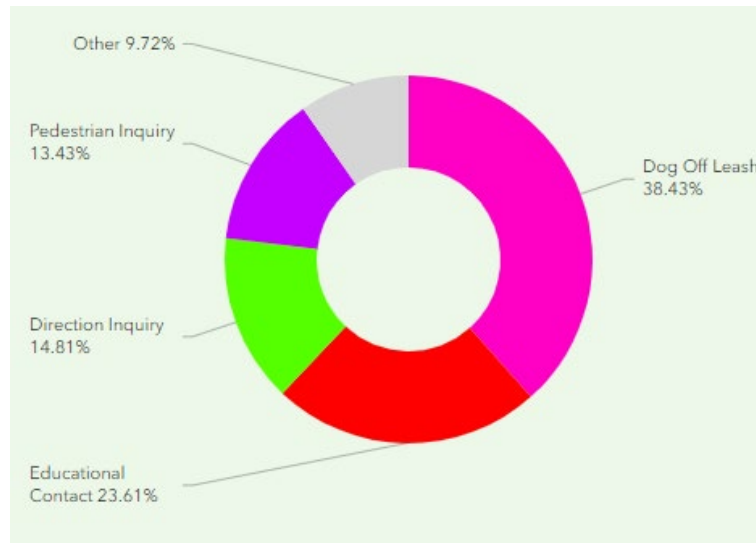
**Homeless Encampment Closures:** The Mabel Davis District Park, the Onion Creek buyout area, and the Williamson Creek Greenbelt near Tom Donovan Meadow have been identified as Housing-focused Encampment Link (HEAL) sites by the Homeless Encampment Management team (HEM). The Mable Davis District Park site was closed on October 5<sup>th</sup> and the Onion Creek buyout area was closed on October 12<sup>th</sup>, both identified as High Wildfire Risk Sites during the summer and prioritized for the Marshalling Yard shelter. The Homeless Strategy Division (HSD) reported that very few individuals were willing to accept shelter from both sites partly due to animal restrictions at bridge shelters and the Marshalling Yard. The Williamson Creek Greenbelt site was closed on October 31<sup>st</sup> where 19 individuals were assisted by the HSD to shelter. **Districts 2 and 3.**

### Homeless October Response:

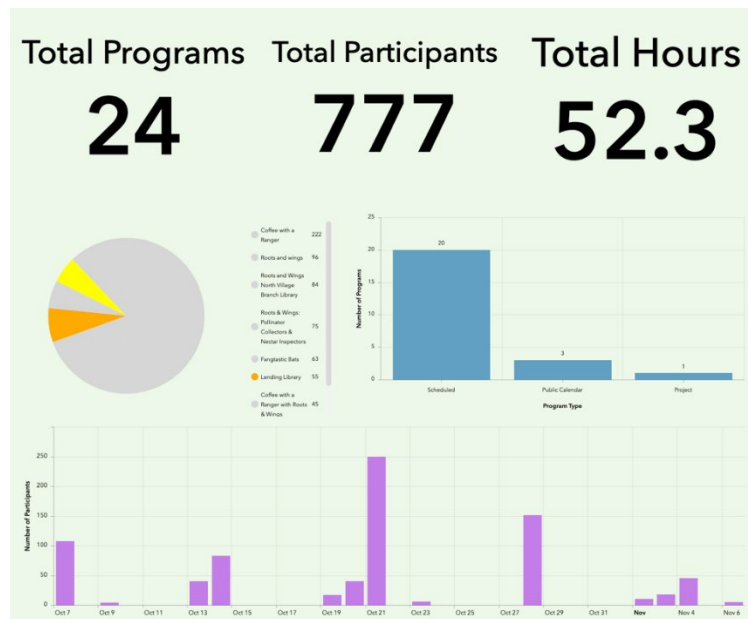
- Number of 311 calls related to homelessness on parkland in October: 318
- Number of fires reported from AFD in October: 23
- Number of TOOF (The Other One's Foundation) site visits for trash abatement in October: 36
- Volume of trash collected by TOOF in October: 24,200 pounds.

**Park Rangers Contacts and Program Updates:** The Austin Parks and Recreation Park Rangers reported 648 contacts with park visitors for the reporting period of October 6<sup>th</sup> through November 6<sup>th</sup>, totaling 753 contacts for the new Fiscal Year 2024. During this timeframe, Park Rangers offered information, assistance, programs, and conservation services within parks maintained by the Department. Park Rangers handled daily operations including 399 contacts regarding laws, safety, service, and education. 249 contacts were logged for off-leash dogs during this timeframe, totaling 267 contacts with park visitors about off-leash dogs since October 1<sup>st</sup>. Park Rangers also conducted 24 programs totaling 52.3

hours with 777 participants. Programs focused on Leave No Trace recreational practices and responsible recreation.



*A Pie Chart of Total Percentages of Park Visitor Contact Categories with Park Rangers from October 6<sup>th</sup> to November 6<sup>th</sup>*



*A Graph of Total Programs, Participants, and Hours of Park Ranger Programming from October 6<sup>th</sup> to November 6<sup>th</sup>*



**Lifeguard Recertification Classes:** Classes started Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> and will be occurring every Saturday through Thanksgiving week. The recertification classes will get current lifeguard staff certified and ready to work for the 2024 season. **All Districts**

**Zilker Train:** After facing some challenges and setbacks, the Austin Parks Foundation has reported that their plans to restore the Zilker Train are officially back on track. Since their last social media post, they have partnered with a local group of engineers, who have the experience and expertise to deliver a safe, functioning train, and the work is already underway. The train coaches were recently transported to an off-site facility to be retrofitted with airbrakes to ensure they're safe for passengers. The retrofit is about 75% complete. They'll also receive new electrical wiring for lights and a PA system. In September, APF reported that crews were busy making repairs to the track, which are now about 90% complete. All parts have been fabricated, and delivery is expected any day now. Barring unforeseen complications, the new and improved Zilker Eagle will enter the testing phase in late fall/early winter, with the train opening to the public shortly thereafter. Additional track maintenance to mitigate erosion and ensure structural integrity has begun. The Foundation has a website that provides details on opening and activities related to the train at <https://www.zilkertrain.org>.

**Watercraft Concession at Barton Creek:** The agreement with the current vendor, Zilker Park Boat Rentals, will expire on February 28, 2024. PARD will seek a one-year contract extension through February 28, 2025. The extension will assist the Department in continuing this watercraft amenity while allowing the City sufficient time to solicit a concessionaire for the Barton Creek location.

**Watercraft Concession at 2418 Stratford Drive:** Due to the cancellation of the solicitation by Central Procurement and the need to resolicit, the contract with the current vendor, Rowing Dock, was extended through October 31, 2023. Additionally, in July 2023, PARD staff requested that the Contracts and Concession Committee and Parks Board recommend City Council authorize an additional one-year contract extension with the Rowing Dock. The extension request was approved by PARB on July 24, 2023, and by the Austin City Council on September 21, 2023. The additional one-year extension will assist the Department in providing quality recreation while giving the City time to resolicit a concessionaire for the Stratford Drive location. PARD contract staff is coordinating with Central Procurement on finalizing the scope of work and the solicitation release.

**Zilker Café:** The agreement with the previous vendor has been terminated. A new solicitation was developed to operate and maintain the food and beverage concession on the north side of Barton Springs Pool in Zilker Park. The solicitation was published on May 30, 2023. Central Procurement held a pre-proposal meeting on June 8, 2023, and proposals for this solicitation were submitted by July 25, 2023. One responsive proposal was received, and Central Procurement conducted the evaluation process. In October, PARD agreed to move forward with the evaluated vendor, Colleens Kitchen LLC. However, during negotiations with the vendor, Central Procurement identified that the vendor's response did not meet the minimum revenue share requirements delineated in the solicitation. At the conclusion of the negotiation period, the vendor was unwilling to move forward with the minimum revenue share, resulting in the cancellation of the solicitation. Consequently, PARD is currently exploring alternative uses for the space that supports the Barton Springs Bathhouse renovations, which are scheduled to begin in early spring 2024.